papers concerning the Indian revolutionaries abroad. This item is generally given high priority in the acquisition programme of the National Archives of India. This is evident from the Guide to Microfilms from Abroad recently brought out by the National Archives of India.

5.2.9.2.2.2

Acquisition of copies of records on Shawl trade from USSR

Resolution by Professor Mohibbul Hasan

The Indian Historical Records Commission recommends that the National Archives of India should acquire documents from the Soviet Union relating to the shawl trade between Kashmir and Moscow and the various towns in Central Asia and on the Volga.

Explanatory Note: Shawls from Srinagar were carried to the markets in Samarkand, Bukhara, Tiflis, Astrakhan, Baku and Moscow by Armenians, Turks, Khirgis and by Kashmiris themselves. Moscow was an important centre of the shawl trade in Europe, and merchants went there from various European countries to purchase Kashmir shawls and Kashmir shawl wool. Tiflis (modern Tbilisi), the capital of Georgian S.S.R., with its large Armenian population, was very prosperous, and an important market for shawl trade, which was carried on by the Armenian and Kashmiri merchants. Tiflis had two bazaars which were the centres of this trade. Annual fairs were quite common in the towns on the Volga and in these fairs large scales of shawl wool and shawls were transacted.

Standing Committee's Views:

A similar Resolution was passed at the 37th Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission (Resolution VII)

urging the Government of India to acquire microfilm copies of records of Indian interest available in the archival repositories and libraries of U.S.S.R. especially in Armenia, Azarbaijan and Uzbekistan.

Prof. N.K. Sinha and the then Director of Archives visited U.S.S.R. in March 1964 under the Indo-Soviet Cultural Exchange Programme and their itinary covered Archives repositories and libraries at Moscow, Leningrad, Erivan, Tashkent and Samarkhand. A list of papers of Indian interest in these repositories had been obtained from the Government of U.S.S.R. for getting their microfilm copies.

Under an earlier bilateral Cultural Exchange Programme between India and U.S.S.R. in 1967, this Department has received 7 rolls comprising 1974 exposures of records of Indian interest from U.S.S.R.

Subsequently the National Archives of India has already approached through the Embassy of India in Moscow to obtain a list of records of Indian interest available in the Archives of U.S.S.R. including the earlier records of the Central Asia dating back to the 17th century with a view to acquire their microfilm copies under the Indo-USSR Cultural Exchange programme. Two Russian Archivists visited the National Archives of India in November, 1981 under the Indo-USSR Cultural Exchange Programme and submitted a draft bilateral agreement to be signed between the Archival Organisations of the two countries which inter-alia, envisages exchange of copies of archival material of mutual interest, as also exchange of archival literature and publications, and joint

publication of records on Indo-Soviet relations available in the Archives of both countries.

5.2.9.2.3

Administration

5.2.9.2.3.1

Staffing Pattern on the basis of quantum of record holdings

Resolution by Shri C.B. Pandya:

The Indian Historical Records Commission recommends that the National Archives of India should study the question of staff requirements for Department of Archives in the states as well as departmental record rooms of various sizes depending upon the quantum of record holdings and prescribe a uniform pattern of staffing.

Explanatory Note: National Archives, Government of India has prescribed norms for various item of work to be carried out by the record offices as well as by the Department of Archives. These norms are being followed by the State Archives in the country as authority. On account of adoption of the Archival Policy Resolution the department of Archives has been made responsible for various items of work enumerated in the Archival Policy Resolution. But at the same time proposals for different posts for undertaking various items in record offices as well as in Archives Department viz. filing, indexing, classification, scrutiny of retention schedules, appraisal and review, maintenance, preservation and weeding out of records are being refuted for want of norms for staffing pattern depending upon the quantum of records holdings. It has therefore, become necessary that the National Archives of India should look into the matter and undertake the study and prescribe uniform staffing pattern for various posts for the department of Archives and departmental